Martin Teetor, inventor of an adding machine,
and the Teetor Adding Machine Company he headed.

Some time ago I searched for information about adding machines, and other office appliances. I found ads and articles about a Teetor adding machine, that I had never read or heard about. This lead to a search for the history of the Teetor Adding Machine Company, and of Martin Teetor, the man behind it.

Martin Teetor was born November 11 1862. He married Minnie J. Randolph April 8 1888. They had a daughter, Evelyn.

Martin Teetor was a watchmaker with the Marquard wholesale jewelry house. Repairing adding machines he became interested in their construction. He designed and built the Teetor adding and subtracting machine. The Teetor Adding Machine Company was formed December 18 1916.

Martin Teetor died of paralysis December 24 1920.

On December 24 1921 a fire destroyed the building where the Teetor Adding Machine Company was located, causing around half a million dollar in damages.
In 1922 the Teetor Adding Machine had moved to Los Angeles, and built a factory in Pomona. By March 1923 the building had been completed, and production started around August 1923. According to an article from February 5 1924, they were looking for another location. What happened after that, I was unable to find, but they had become inoperative and void by March 17 1926.

I also found Martin Teetor tied to the start of the Butler Machinery Company in Des Moines, but I do not know if it is the same man.

Last update March 30 2021 - Bosj

Titlepage.png

Teetor Adding Machine Co.,
Des Moines, Ia.

1916-1917 Who makes it and where - the stationers book of knowledge p69A.png

NEXT ITEM

1917 04 20 - Des Moines Daily News p4 - Sidney Taylor..png

LEAVES THE NEWS
TO ENTER TEETOR ADDING MACHINE CO.

SIDNEY TAYLOR

Sidney Taylor of 1547 12th-st, for the past three and a half years manager of the classified advertising department, severs his connection with The News Saturday to become affiliated with the Teetor Adding Machine company as assistant to Frank Cummins, general manager.

Taylor has made many friends in Des Moines since coming here from Cincinnati, and has aided in building up The News' classified department to its present high standard. He has been in newspaper work for 15 years.

"While I regret to leave The News,' said Taylor Friday, "I feel that my position with the Teetor Adding Machine company offers a wonderful future for me. In a few years I am confident it will be one of the greatest concerns of its kind in the country, and will do much to boost the reputation of Des Moines as a manufacturing center."

1917 04 20 - Des Moines Daily New

NEXT ITEM

TEETOR ADDING MACHINE ENTERS NEW HOME AUGUST 1

The Manufacture of Teetor Adding Machines Will Begin on a Commercial Scale When the Company Enters Its New Building on August 1, in Des Moines, Ia.—The Company Makes Adding, Subtracting and Listing Machines, Etc.—Factory Is Equipped for the Entire Process of Manufacture.

MANUFACTURE of Teetor adding machines on a large commercial scale will begin Aug. 1 in the company's new factory to be located in the old Dodd & Struthers building, 720-722 Sixth avenue, Des Moines, Ia., which is being remodeled especially for this purpose.

The Teetor company has leased the first four floors of the building from the Western Life Insurance Company for five years with renewal privilege. The insurance company itself will occupy the fifth floor.

The Building to Be Ready August 1

Alterations of the building, including an ornamental terra cotta front, the installation of new elevators and other interior changes are to be completed and the building ready for its new tenants by Aug. 1.

The new factory will give the company 20,000 feet of floor space and will permit the installation of $25,000 worth of new machinery purchased in Chicago last week by Frank S. Cummins, general manager of the company, and the installation of an equal amount now in use in the temporary factory.

Raw Materials Purchased

During his visit in Chicago Mr. Cummins also purchased the materials for the first 1,000 adding machines to be manufactured. A large part of the materials, sheet and piston steel, rods, bars, motors and stands has already been delivered.

About 200 machines are now in the process of manufacture at the old factory and twenty men are employed in this work, with three others in the engineering department. After Aug. 1 the company will have between seventy-five and one hundred employed in turning out at least five machines a day. At the present time the output is six or eight machines a month. The first machines to be made will be the seven and eight column adding, subtracting and listing machines of the commercial model. Within six months, according to Mr. Cummins, the company will have upon the market the statement and posting machines in addition to the others.

Factory to Be Thoroughly Equipped

The factory will be equipped for the entire process of manufacture and for this will install its own nickeling, enameling and steel welding apparatus.

The offices and salesrooms of the company will be located in the new building and the sales organization will be built up carefully at once in order that agencies in all parts of the country may be ready for business by the time that deliveries can be made. The plans of the company are to make it modern in every particular.

Philadelphia's Candidate for the National Presidency

THE great trait in the character of "Billy" Brooks is his friendliness. All those who come in contact with his pleasing personality feel this immediately. His hand is extended in comradeship to all, and like Kipling's description, he is a man with the "common touch."

William Henry Brooks is vice-president of the William F. Murphy Sons Company, blank book makers, printers and manufacturing stationers of Philadelphia, and such is his recognized ability and resourcefulness in business circles, that his co-operation has been sought along many other lines, and he now has voice in the conduct of various important corporate interests, all of which have directly benfited by the stimulus of his co-operation and his sound judgment, which recognizes possibilities in the world of trade and adopts practical methods to the attainment of success.

WILLIAM HENRY BROOKS

In October, 1885, he entered business life in connection with William F. Murphy Sons Company. Upon its incorporation in 1891 Mr. Brooks was chosen secretary and in 1894 was elected to the office of vice-president, since which time the active management of the business has devolved largely upon him.

During his term of five years as president of the Philadelphia Stationers' Association, great strides in membership, general activity, and benefits were made, and the heartiest co-operation was extended to the National Association. Upon his retirement from office of president, he left the Philadelphia Stationers' Association in a more flourishing condition than it ever had been in the past. He is today chairman of the executive committee, and his interest in everything pertaining to the association is as great as ever. He has been keenly interested in the National Association; has been a director, and has attended many of the annual conventions.

As the presiding chairman or toastmaster of any occasion, Mr. Brooks takes charge with an almost inherited instinct of ease and skill. Tactful, courteous, easy in mannerism and bearing, he immediately places his hearers in a receptive and pleasant mood, and guides the trend of thought successfully throughout the entire evening.

His winsome personality has won him a host of friends throughout the country. Billy, as he is popularly known, is a good mixer.

You simply cannot feel blue when you hear his laugh. There is a something infectious in its sincerity and hearty ring. The Philadelphia trade is behind Mr. Brooks, for he is a man whose record shows him to be worthy of the presidency of the National Association.

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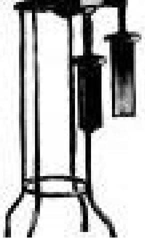
1917 07 21 - The American Stationer vol 82 p22 Teetor.png

NEXT ITEM

The W. N. Long Co. is a new concern at Omaha, Neb., which will handle all makes of typewriters and the new Teetor adding machine.

1918 - Business Equipment Topics v38-40 p56 col2 par5.png

NEXT ITEM



has been placed on the market by the Santiseptic Manufacturing Company, Inc., Corn Exchange Bank Building, St. George, Staten Island, N. Y. The heating element in this sterilizer is a wire wound over a suitable insulator which surrounds the chamber where the sterilizing is done, and is exposed directly to the steam or moisture used in making superheated steam.

The length of the wire used and the area that it covers, and the fact that it operates at a temperature that seldom exceeds 450 deg. Fahr., makes the danger of burnouts small.

The operation is simple and when heated to operating temperature the sterilization

mental calculations or complicated and indirect mechanical operations can be accomplished with the adding machine manufactured by the Teetor Adding Machine Company of Des Moines, Iowa. This makes it possible to list debit and credit items as they occur and to obtain the net result at the completion of the operation. All operating levers are on the right of the machine, which leaves the left hand free to turn pages, etc.

A complete line of electric statement machines, bookkeeping machines and special machines for various classes of business is to be offered to the trade at

1918 - Merchandising Week v19-20 p 53 - 2 - Teetor.jpg

NEXT ITEM

Kent to Manage Teetor Sales.

On February 1, John E. Kent, for twenty-three years a salesman and recently assistant general sales manager of the Barrett Adding Machine Company of Philadelphia, removed to Des Moines, Ia., where he has become the sales manager of the Teetor Adding Machine Company.

1918 02 - Office Appliances v27 p094 col2 last item - John E Kent to Manage Teetor Sales.png

NEXT ITEM

Important Adding Machine Enterprise

Brief Story of One of Iowa's Newer Industrial Organizations.

The number of manufacturing concerns is gradually increasing in the Middle West. This is true of the office equipment industry as well as of others. One of the younger concerns in this field had its inception thirteen years ago when Martin Teetor, an Iowa man with a genius for applied mechanics, commenced work on a figuring machine to work forward or backward, adding in one process and taking away or subtracting in the reverse process.

MARTIN TEETOR, PRESIDENT,
Teetor Adding Machine Company.

It is said that the first adding and listing machine ever brought to Des Moines was purchased by the Iowa National Bank. There were no service men in the city at the time, and when the machine broke down they called on Mr. Teetor, who was an expert watchmaker with the Marquardt wholesale jewelry house. He repaired the machine and immediately became interested in adding machine construction. For some time after this event he acted as a district service man, taking care of all the adding machines in the vicinity. From this experience arose the idea that the general design of such machines could be simplified and that a subtracting device was necessary to enable the machine to handle both debits and credits. During the next ten years, with the aid of some Iowa capitalists, Mr. Teetor designed and built the Teetor adding and subtracting machine.

On December 18, 1916, the Teetor Adding Machine Company was formed and in January, 1917, Frank S. Cummins was elected vice president and general manager. The company is now capitalized at $3,000,000, the plant is well located, covers about 20,000 feet of floor space and employs 130 people.

In principle the machine manufactured today is identical to that of the early model designed by Mr. Teetor. It has been improved and the machine changed in size from a seven column to a nine column. It has never been either necessary or desirable to make any radical changes in the principle of the machine.

Mr. Cummins was formerly vice president of the Harry H. Polk Company. This company is a large operator in the real estate field, especially in apartment houses and subdivisions. Previous to that he was traffic manager of the Interurban Railway of Des Moines and chief engineer of the Des Moines City Railway.

R. M. Winger, general sales manager, was for seven years with the National Cash Register Company as traveling auditor, sales agent and office manager. He spent approximately one year as salesman in the bookkeeping machine department of the Underwood company and nine years as salesman and division sales manager of the American Multigraph Sales Company of Cleveland, Ohio.

Miles H. Mann, the factory superintendent, has enjoyed a long and successful experience in the production of mechanical specialties on a quality basis.

Boosting Chicago Furniture Market.

The Chicago Furniture Market Association has been organized to promote Chicago as a furniture market. An office has been opened in the Monadnock block, in charge of Irving L. Brown. The Chicago furniture market is being promoted by display advertising space, and by a mail campaign, which work is calculated to increase the attendance at the June and January furniture exhibitions. The Chicago Association of Commerce is aiding in the campaign. It is believed that the plan will bring 10,000 dealers to the Chicago market each season, instead of the 2,500 which have been coming without any concerted action.

Ex-Soldier Takes Connecticut Post.

John A. Piisanen has recently been appointed district manager for the American Kardex Company with branch office located at 647 Main street, Hartford, Connecticut.

Mr. Piispanen was on the Kardex sales forces in Boston, but upon being discharged from the army was sent to Connecticut to handle the "nutmeg" trade.

Opens Office for Export.

The Kee-Lox Company, manufacturers of typewriter ribbons and carbon papers of Rochester, N. Y., has opened an office for export trade at 61 Broadway, New York. Geo. Steele is in charge and will handle all the foreign business.

FRANK S. CUMMINGS,
Vice President and General Manager.

R. M. WINGER,
General Sales Manager.

MILES H. MANN,
Factory Superintendent.

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1919 05 - Office Appliances v29 p066 Teetor - history.png

NEXT ITEM

Adding Machine Account for Ayer Agency

The advertising account of the Teetor Adding Machine Company, Des Moines, Ia., has been put in the hands of N. W. Ayer & Son, Philadelphia, Pa.

1919 10 - 12 - Printers ink v109 p84.png

NEXT ITEM

Ayer Has Adding Machine Account

N. W. Ayer & Son, Philadelphia, Pa., has obtained the account of the Teetor Adding Machine Company, Des Moines, Iowa.

NEXT ITEM

Teeters Mable Mrs res 1208 so w 1st

TEETOR ADDING MACHINE CO Chas A Rawson Pres, Chas E Lynde Sec and Treas, Manufacturers of Adding and Subtracting and Bookkeeping Machines, 720 6th av, Tel Walnut 4448

Teetor Minnie (wid Martin) res 1410 Penn av

1921 - Des Moines City Directory - Teetor Adding Machine Co - Teetor Minnie (wid Martin) - col2 row6 and 7.png

NEXT ITEM

ADDING MACHINES—

Teetor Adding Machine Co., 720 6th Ave. ......Des Moines

NEXT ITEM

That the City Auditor be and is hereby authorized and directed to draw warrant in favor of the Teetor Adding Machine Company in the sum of $435.00, in payment of adding machine. Said warrant to be drawn on the Consolidated Fund and from the following appropriations:

Housing Division	$100.00
Health Miscellaneous	135.00
Plumbing Inspection, Miscellaneous	100.00

1921 - Proceedings - Des Moines p 308 - 2 - Teetor.png

NEXT ITEM

1921 03 The Iowa Engineer v21 p14..png

In addition to the above mentioned companies Des Moines includes in her industries such establishments as, Eagle Iron Works, Caldbeck Tool Co., Teetor Adding Machine Co., Globe Machine and Supply Co., Iowa Pure Iron Co., Des Moines Brick and Tile Co., Hawkeye Portland Cement Co., and a list of sheet metal works, wood working plants, chemical plants, and makers of farm implements and supplies.

1921 03 The Iowa Engineer v21 p14.png

NEXT ITEM

out the United States and Mexico.

CASH REGISTER EXCHANGE, Los Angeles, California. C. P. Mee in charge.—Exhibit consisted of Teetor adding, subtracting and listing machine, Victor adding machine, St. Louis cash registers, line of rebuilt National cash registers and a display of the construction of the Teetor adding machine, which received much attention.

CITIZENS TRUST AND SAVINGS BANK, Los Angeles, California.

1921 06 - Office Appliances v33 p217 Cash Register Exchange Teetor col1 par9.png

NEXT ITEM

1921 12 25 -Teetor Christmas Eve Fire 0.png

Des Moines Suffers Half Million Dollar Christmas Eve Fire

DES MOINES, Iowa, Dec. 24 (By The Associated Press.)—A Christmas eve fire caused damage estimated at more than half a million dollars here tonight, resulting in the complete loss of the contents of the Bankers' Loan & Investment company's five-story building at Sixth and Center streets.

The greatest loss was suffered by the Teetor Adding Machine company, which occupied the third and fourth floors of the building. C. W. Rawson, president of the adding machine company, said that it appeared to him that the loss suffered by his firm would exceed $600,000.

The Western Life Insurance Company, which occupied the top floor of the building, suffered the loss of valuable records. For a time the fire threatened the Bristol apartment house and the Chamberlain Medicine Company. Both buildings suffered small losses.

The origin of the fire, which started on the third floor, is unknown.

1921 12 25 -Teetor Christmas Eve Fire 1 - Morning Press vL Nr91.png

$600,000 BLAZE

DES MOINES, Ia., Dec. 24 (By the Associated Press).—A Christmas eve fire caused damage estimated at more than half a million dollars here tonight, resulting in the complete loss of the contents of the Bankers' Loan and Investment company's five-story building at Sixth and Center streets.

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1921 12 25 -Teetor Christmas Eve Fire 2 - San Diego Union and Daily Bee.png

Des Moines Business District Threatened by Raging Blaze

(By Associated Press Leased Wire)

DES MOINES, Iowa, Dec. 24.—A Christmas eve fire caused damage estimated at more than $500,000 here tonight, resulting in the complete loss of the contents of the Bankers' Loan and Investment Company's five story building at Sixth and Center streets.

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1921 12 25 -Teetor Christmas Eve Fire 3 - San Bernardino Sun v

DES MOINES SUFFERS HALF MILLION FIRE

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1921 12 25 -Teetor Christmas Eve Fire 4 - Sacramento Union v223 Nr25848 .png

Teetor Adding Machine Company Has Fire Loss.

Late last year the Teetor Adding Machine Company, Des Moines, Iowa, suffered a disastrous loss by fire in its factory. Machinery parts and finished adding machines, etc., were valued at $700,000. The property was covered by $250,000 insurance, but the exact loss cannot be determined until the insurance adjusters can complete their work. The factory occupied the third and fourth floors of the building at Sixth and Center streets. The fourth floor gave way during the fire, precipitating its contents to the lower floor.

1922 02 - Office Appliances v35 p72 col2 item4.png

PRINCIPAL FIRES OF THE YEAR EXCEEDING $3,000 DAMAGE

January 17—Garden Candy Co. 606 W. Grand Ave.	$ 4,080.00
January 28—Clay Getchell, 705 Davis Ave.	3,700.00
March 12—W. M. Carr, 337 Broad St.	3,100.00
March 18—J. W. Turner, 1440 McCormack St.	2,922.00
April 19—Red Cedar Mfg. Co., 100 S-W 2nd St.	3,411.00
May 1—H. N. Hansen, 118 W 8th St.	77,694.00
May 7—Standard Glass & P., 514 E. Locust St.	2,942.00
May 10—Iowa Terminal Co., West 2nd & Grand	2,816.00
May 13—Des Moines Edison Co., 1st & Chestnut St.	3,193.00
May 15—J. C. Cummins, 2410 Forest Drive	3,880.00
May 24—Reliable Grocery Co., 317 West Locust	2,647.00
June 22—J. M. Currier, 411 Shops Bldg.	3,494.00
July 8—Iowa Childrens Home, 2340 East 9th St.	8,280.00
November 13—Graef Hotel, 214 Walnut St.	5,490.00
November 24—J. P. Condon, 2815 West Grand Ave.	4,000.00
November 26—Tone Bros., 109 West Court Ave.	6,790.00
November 30—Swift & Co., 5th & Cherry St.	5,850.00
December 6—Jce Shinkavitz, 422 East Walnut	4,758.00
December 24—Teetor Adding Mach. Co., 720-22 6th Ave.	401,321.00
December 30—Davidson Bros. Co., 106 West 3rd St.	161.266.00

1923 - Annual report of the city of Des Moines p119 and 120.png

sources

sources on internet..png

Some of the internet websites I used to gather information.

Google
https://www.google.com
https://books.google.com
https://patents.google.com

Internet Archive
https://archive.org/details/texts
https://archive.org/details/internationaltoolcataloglibrary
https://archive.org/details/catalogs
https://archive.org/details/manuals

Hathitrust Digital Library
https://www.hathitrust.org

Patents
https://patents.google.com
https://worldwide.espacenet.com
http://www.datamp.org
https://depatisnet.dpma.de
http://bases-brevets19e.inpi.fr
https://patents.justia.com

Trademarks
https://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/search
http://www.ic.gc.ca/app/opic-cipo/trdmrks/srch/
https://www.dpma.de/gebrauchsmuster/recherche/index.html
https://trademarks.justia.com

Personal information
https://www.findagrave.com/
https://www.ancestry.com/search/
https://www.genealogy.com/

sources on internet.png